

In sending specimens of plants for investigation it is desirable to have the leaves, flowers, and fruit; and, in the case of bulbous plants, the bulbs, also. When they are sent from a distance it is best to prepare the specimens by drying them under pressure between folds of absorbent paper, otherwise the parts shrink and break so as to be hardly recognizable. When the dried plants are sent they should be protected from breakage in the mail by being inclosed between pieces of stiff pasteboard. Packages weighing less than four pounds can be sent by mail at the rate of one cent per ounce. Write the name of the sender on the outside. In the letter accompanying the specimens state where collected, the date, and any other particulars of the plant, whether reputed poisonous, pestiferous, medicinal, or useful.

U. S. Department of Agriculture,

BOTANICAL DIVISION,

Washington, D. C., Aug. 10, 1889.

Dr. Sereno Watson,

Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Please accept my thanks for the use of the Harvard Fuirena. I have examined them, and return the package to-day.

I have made out four good groups of Fuirena squarrosa, one forming the type of the species, one var. hispidula, Chapm., one var. pumila, Torr., and the last var. aristulata, Torr. The descriptions have been varied somewhat and considerably more elaborated than in the originals. The paper will be ready for publication by the time of the A. A. A. S. meeting, but if you want to look it over before then for the Manual, I will have a copy made for you.

During all my examination of specimens it has seemed to me that Torr-

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rey's var. aristulata was quite distinct from the others, no intermediate forms occurring; and now it seems probable that it is the same as F. Schiedeana, Kth, which is according to Boeckeler the F. simplex of Vahl. Can you send me your specimens of those species?

Yours very sincerely,

Fred. V. Coville.
Acting Botanist.

P.S. I had marked some of the plants var. aristulata, not wishing to assume the responsibility of making it a species, and only to-day have I examined specimens of F. Schiedeana. But even if the variety goes there, F. squarrosa ought to stand.

F.V.C.

Oct. 5, 1892 - Washington, D.C.

The bundle has been again examined today and the necessary changes in synonymy made, namely F. squarrosa humila to F. squarrosa, typical form; F. squarrosa var. α Torr. to F. squarrosa breviseta Coville; and F. squarrosa aristulata to F. simplex Vahl. Frederick V. Coville.